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HOUSE MEMORIAL 33

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Candy Spence Ezzell

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY AT ROSWELL AND
HAGERMAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF AN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, education beyond high school is now more critical
than ever before and only ten percent of Hispanic students
complete a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, first generation college students are nearly
twice as likely not to complete college as those students with
college-educated parents, and lower-income students are seven
times more likely not to complete a bachelor's degree than
upper-income students; and

WHEREAS, students are not academically prepared for
college, as evidenced by the growing number of students
enrolled in noncredit, remedial courses offered by state

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1 colleges and universities; and

2 WHEREAS, the best predictors of college completion are not
3 a student's grades or SAT scores, but the difficulty of the
4 high school courses a student is required to complete; and

5 WHEREAS, in the transition from high school to college,
6 there is a need to emphasize academic preparedness rather than
7 credit-hours alone; and

8 WHEREAS, the need exists to allow students to earn an
9 associate's degree or two years of college credit toward a
10 bachelor's degree and a high school diploma simultaneously; and

11 WHEREAS, high school faculty can act as advisors to assist
12 students in completing an academic plan and can monitor their
13 progress to help them overcome barriers to success; and

14 WHEREAS, experiencing the rigor, depth and intensity of
15 college-level work during high school can help underachieving,
16 average and outstanding students build confidence in their
17 ability to succeed in college; and

18 WHEREAS, this initiative could develop a unique vision and
19 learning environment that could dramatically increase the
20 possibility that our most needy students can truly meet the
21 mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that eastern New
24 Mexico university at Roswell and the Hagerman municipal school
25 district study the feasibility and effectiveness of an early

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1 college high school initiative; develop a survey of staff,
2 students, parents and community members to gauge expectations,
3 satisfaction and local needs; monitor curricula to ensure high
4 academic standards, alignment and effectiveness of instruction;
5 and evaluate current curricula to ensure adequate preparation
6 of middle and high school students for participation in an
7 early college high school initiative; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of this study be
9 presented to the legislative education study committee by
10 September 2005.

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